

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 RSR-01 /110 W

----- 111040

R 190130 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1560

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS MANAGUA 2468

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, NU, CS

SUBJECT: FIGUERES VISIT TO NICARAGUA

1. COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT JOSE FIGUERES, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SON JOSE MARIA AND SEVERAL AIDES VISITED MANAGUA FOR ABOUT 16 HOURS MAY 3-4. ARRIVING AT 10:30 PM MAY 3, FIGUERES RECIEVED A SIMPLE WELCOME CEREMONY IN KEEPING WITH THE LATE HOUR. HE WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY DR. LOVO CORDERO, AMEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL , FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL AND THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. IN HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT, FIGUERES SAID THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO DELIVER A LECTURE AT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

INSTITUTE GKVINCAE) IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION EXTENDED ON BEHALF OF INCAE BY FOUR COSTA RICAN STUDENTS-8'

2. ON THE MORNING OF MAY 4 THE PRESIDENTIAL VISITOR HAD BREAKFAST WITH THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL AND GENERAL SOMOZA. AFTERWARD HE WENT TO INCAE WHERE HE SPOKE TO FACULTY AND STUDENTS ON " RELATIONS BETWEEN RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES". THE SPEECH WAS NOT A PARTICULARLY REVEALING EXPOSITION OF THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' VIEWS OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE

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DEVELOPED WORLD. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, THE ECONOMIC THEORIES HE POSTULATED WERE CHARACTERIZED BY SOME OF THOSE PRESENT AS " EXTRAORDINARY, FOR THE 1930' S".

3. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING, FIGUERS IN GOOD HUMOUR, JOKED EXTENSIVELY WITH THE REPORTS, MAKING SUCH COMMENTS AS " GENERAL SOMOZA WANTS TO RECONSTRUCT A COUNTRY OF 40 STORIES AND HE CONSULTED ME ABOUT THIS" AND " GENERAL SOMOZA AND I SECRETLY PLANNED AN INVASION OF THE UNITED STATES DURING OUR MEETING", WHEN ASKED IF HE PLANNED TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT AGAIN HE SAID " CERTAINLY, I HAVE HAD ONLY THREE TERMS AND I LACK AT LEAST SEVEN MORE". IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON VESCO' S ACITIVITIES HE SAID " HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY, WE HAVE MANAGED TO RECUPERATE 35, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING INVESTED IN THE COUNTRY".

4. AT APPROXIMATELY 2:30 PM MAY 4 PRESIDENT FIGUERES RECEIVED FULL MILITARY HONORS AT THE AIRPOT, WITH THE NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GENERAL SOMOZA PRESENT, AND DEPARTED FOR SAN JOSE.
SHELTON

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